

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8, 16 and 31-33 are pending in the current application. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claim 6 has been cancelled by this Amendment.

Summary of Examiner Interview

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his time during the September 27, 2005 personal Interview with Applicant's representative Matthew Lattig (Reg. No. 45,274). During the Interview, it was agreed that the presently filed amendment to independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record (See Interview Summary of September 27, 2005). It was further agreed that the amendment to paragraph [0015] of the Specification and newly filed Figure 5 would be sufficient in overcoming the drawing objection.

Drawing Objection

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). With this Amendment, Applicant has provided a new Figure 5 as well as an amended paragraph [0015] which describes all features present in Figure 5. As discussed in the Interview, Figure 5 and the description thereof is not new matter based at least in part on the disclosure in the original Specification which recites "[i]n FIG. 1, the dovetail groove 46 is represented as an opening having a depth equal to the entire thickness of the protective cap 40, but it may be formed as a blind hole having a depth less than the thickness of the protective cap 40" (Emphasis Added) (See paragraph [0015] of the original Specification).

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the Interview of September 27, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the drawing objection.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Yoshikawa

Claims 1-2, 4, 16 and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshikawa. Applicant respectfully traverses this art ground of rejection.

As discussed above, the Examiner has indicated that “[t]he Proposed Amendment [to independent claim 1] is sufficient to overcome the prior art of record” (see Interview Summary of September 27, 2005). As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Caletka in view of Yoshikawa

Claims 1-4, 8, 16 and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caletka in view of Yoshikawa. Applicant respectfully traverses this art ground of rejection.

As discussed above, the Examiner has indicated that “[t]he Proposed Amendment [to independent claim 1] is sufficient to overcome the prior art of record” (see Interview Summary of September 27, 2005). As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

Issuance of the present application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-2, 4, 16 and 31-33 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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Attachments: New Drawing Sheet of Figure 5

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes a new Figure 5.

Attachment: New Drawing Sheet of Figure 5